

**M**ore than 2.8 million women are living with breast cancer in America today, one million of whom have yet to be diagnosed. Today, breast cancer is still the number one killer of women between the ages of 35 and 50. And the disease claims another woman's life every 12 minutes in the United States.

Because of these alarming figures, I decided to do something to help raise research funds for this deadly disease. On August 13, 1997, President Clinton signed the legislation into law that I authored in the U.S. Senate to create a breast cancer research stamp for the first time in American history.

In August 1998, this effort became a reality as the U.S. Postal Service began the sale of the special 40 cent breast cancer research stamp and in November 2001 Congress increased the cost of the stamp to 45 cents. The additional 8 cents raised from the sale of each stamp is directed to important breast cancer research programs.

It is important to note that this stamp will not replace the regular priced first class stamp, but will simply give buyers the option to purchase a new stamp to raise funds to fight a cancer that impacts the lives of one out of every nine American women. The following pages contain more information about the breast cancer research stamp.

Dianne Feinstein

A handwritten signature in orange ink that reads "Dianne Feinstein". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

## *The Breast Cancer Research Stamp – A Record of Success*

On November 12, 2001, President Bush signed into law a measure to reauthorize the Breast Cancer Research Stamp until December 31, 2003. To date, the stamp has raised \$28.8 million to find a cure for the disease, with more than \$5 million of that being raised in California.

The breast cancer research stamp is the first stamp in our nation's history dedicated to raising funds for a special cause. The stamp's success has led Congress to reauthorize the legislation twice, allowing it to be around until at least the end of 2003. The stamp has inspired other fundraising stamps including the Heroes of 2001 stamp, which raises money for the family of emergency personnel who died or were disabled during the terrorist attacks on 9/11.

The breast cancer stamp costs 45 cents and is deemed valid as a 37-cent first-class stamp. The additional 8 cents charged for each stamp goes to research. Seventy percent of the research funds generated by the stamp are directed to research programs at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The remaining 30% of the research funds are directed to the Department of Defense (DOD) breast cancer research program.

**As of October 2002, over \$28.8 million has been raised for breast cancer research.**



Despite increases in the last few years, research dollars are still desperately needed to fund cancer research.

The idea behind the stamp originated from California from the very beginning. It came from a Sacramento oncologist, Dr. Ernie Bodai, who has treated over 1,000 women with breast cancer. Ernie teamed with Betsy Mullen, a breast cancer survivor from San Diego, and David Goodman, who lost his wife to breast cancer and hails from Orinda, to lobby on behalf of the stamp.

The stamp was designed by Ethel Kessler of Bethesda, Maryland, and illustrated by Whitney Sherman of Baltimore, Maryland. This is the first postage stamp illustration by Sherman, and is the first stamp design by Kessler, who is currently working on other stamp design projects for the Postal Service and has a personal interest in helping raise awareness about breast cancer as she is a survivor of the disease.

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Texas) served as the lead cosponsor of S. 1256, the measure for reauthorization of the stamp in the 107th Congress. The legislation was subsequently adopted as an amendment to the FY02 Treasury-Postal Appropriations bill. The original Senate legislation was sponsored by Senators Feinstein, Alfonse D'Amato (R-NY) and Lauch Faircloth (R-NC), while the House legislation was sponsored by Representative Vic Fazio (D-Sacramento) and former Representative Susan Molinari of New York.

“Today, thanks to breakthroughs in cancer research, more and more people are becoming cancer survivors rather than cancer victims. According to the American Association for Cancer Research, 8 million people are alive today as a result of cancer research. Every dollar we can raise through these stamps to fight breast cancer will help save lives.”

Senator Dianne Feinstein

